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Marvels



Synopsis

Welcome to New York. Here, burning figures roam the streets, men in brightly colored costumes scale the glass and concrete walls, and creatures from space threaten to devour our world. This is the Marvel Universe, where the ordinary and fantastic interact daily.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ten years ago, *Marvels* was the breakthrough work for both of its creators: a worm's-eye view of the spectacle of Marvel comics history—35 years of glorious superheroes and terrifying super-disasters, told from the perspective of Phil Sheldon, a newspaper photographer who's experienced "the marvels" from ground level. Renowned artist Ross's rich, lush, nearly photorealistic style (he painted all the major characters from photographs of models) made his reputation—and the book—a landmark. The story, too, suggests a sort of grandeur that had largely slipped away from superhero comics by the early '90s, even as it describes the helplessness that normal people might feel in the presence of angel-winged mutants and rapacious gods from outer space. There are plenty of Easter eggs in *Marvels* for longtime comics buffs, although the book is structured so that new readers won't be lost, either. The level of detail goes much deeper than what's visible on the page, but its creators' command of that unseen background gives the story itself force and resilience. This new edition augments the original with over 200 pages of extras: four drafts of Busiek's original proposal for the series, all of his scripts, a short bonus story, dozens of Ross's sketches and related artwork, and a guide to the many celebrity

cameo appearances Ross drew into the original. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Kurt Busiek and Alex Ross' "Marvels" has been around for a long time, and it's one of those graphic novels that might have fallen off the radar for some. That's a shame, because it contains some of Alex Ross' freshest and most beautiful artwork and Kurt Busiek's clever story and characters have more heart and humanity than virtually all of the MCU's feature films put together. Rather than constantly put the superheroes front and center, "Marvels" is really about how ordinary men and women would respond to superpowered heroes walking among us. Set roughly between 1940 and 1970, and from the viewpoint of a professional photographer, the reactions of ordinary people include jingoism, celebrity worship, paranoia, and good old fear and loathing. This isn't an Alan Moore-style deconstruction of the genre nor a Kingdom Come-style epic, but an alternative (and exciting) way to recast superhero stories in a more realistic and approachable way than most comic books currently do and in a family-friendly way without being childish. "Marvels" doesn't currently boast the reputation that other books illustrated by Alex Ross do, but I think it's actually a finer work and I strongly encourage you to seek it out. Marvel superheroes seem to be everywhere on television and movies today, but they never seem more real than they do in this book.

A wonderful view of the Marvel Universe from an everyman's viewpoint. Reading comics on the Kindle isn't great, but I'm buying a few classics to have on hand when traveling. You need excellent eyesight to get full enjoyment. I wish that or Marvel (and DC) or whoever is responsible for formatting these for the Kindle would edit them so you can click on each panel (and/or text) to improve the ability to read the text by those of us with vision issues.

Nice book with beautiful artwork. The story-line is a bit dated at this point but its definitely worth a read & some of the themes of change & social pressure still resonate today. My only complaint was that the paperback version I got is not especially durable feeling. The front & back covers are just as then as the pages inside giving the whole thing a "magazine" like feel.

This decades-spanning story was really interesting in how it tied together the Marvel universe from its beginnings in the late 30s to its rebirth in the 60s. It might have been interesting if it got to some of the more modern versions of the heroes. The art by Alex Ross is great as always.

I've been reading Marvel since the 1960's, from out in Los Angeles. I've always been a spectator, watching the Matvels. Having been a reader of so many things ever since I could read the world opened for me much like this book unfurled. I only wish we had a little more respect for what goes on in our world and took the time. To appreciate why these people do what they do for us and what they endure and sacrifice.... For us. Mr Busiek, has written and allegorical gem. Ever since I was a kid I thought of Marvel Comics as the modern day mythology. And on the movie screens it's starting to become clearer to so many others as well. This work and so much else that came out of the 90's and the early 2000's prove my point. Now if only we could learn to appreciate and then emulate our 'Gods' the great shift would begin.... If only. Nuff Said.

Let me first begin by saying that I am NOT a Marvel fan. I have my reasons, won't go into them, but I am most definitely a D.C. fan. So, I read Kingdom Come (which is a good book as well) and was so impressed by the artwork that I decided to get Marvels. It pains me to say this, but Marvels by far outranks Kingdom Come! The story in Marvels is essentially a history of Marvel Comics, told through the eyes of a civilian who follows the evolution of the Marvel superheroes. It is freaking fantastic!! So, if you are into comic books like me, I highly recommend buying this book. You won't be disappointed at all... regardless of which company you enjoy reading more.

Awesome. A nice surprise from the very first words which are written by the Commander-in-chief and it goes on to the its core. The artwork its amazing and beautiful, a very innovative way of "retelling" so many stories that have captured us for so many years. One of the features i liked the most are the little hints about several characters and events that foreshadow who they will become in the future. Phil Sheldon becomes such an credible lead that is almost impossible not to feel identified with him. In general a masterpiece, a must-read for every Marvel fan.

Not a revisionist history, but a walk through seven decades of Marvel, as seen through the eyes of one photographer, from the first human torch, the birth of the fantastic four and the death of Gwen Stacy. This and more, brilliantly written by Kurt Bushel, with illustrations by Alex Ross, this is a fine edition to any collection.

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